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JOHN CRIGLER

OUR FILE NO.
0159-129-60

November 27, 1996

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Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Re: Notice of Inquiry
MM Docket No. 96-197

Dear Mr. Caton:

Transmitted herewith, on behalf of Haley Bader & Potts, are the original and four copies of its Request For Extension Of Comment Date for the Notice of Inquiry, MM Docket No. 96-197. Haley Bader & Potts requests that the comment deadline be extended to February 7, 1997 in order to coordinate the NOI with other, related rulemakings.

Please refer any questions concerning this matter directly to this office.

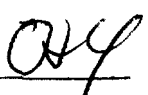
Respectfully submitted,



John Crigler

JC:dh
Enclosure

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ORIGINAL

Before The
Federal Communications Commission

Washington, D.C. 20554

In The Matter Of)
)
Newspaper/Radio Cross-ownership)
Waiver policy)
)
To: The Commission)
)

MM Docket No. 96-197

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENT DATE

On October 1, 1996, the Commission initiated a Notice of Inquiry ("NOI") with respect to waivers of the newspaper/radio cross ownership restriction set forth in Section 73.3555 of its Rules. The NOI invited comment on a variety of questions related to a possible relaxation of the Commission's current waiver policy. A comment date of December 9, 1996 and a reply comment date of January 8, 1996 were established by the NOI.

On November 7, 1996, the Commission released three notices of proposed rule makings: a Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MM Docket Nos. 94-150/92-51/87-154 ("Further Notice"); a Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MM Docket Nos. 91-221/87-7 ("Second Further Notice"); and a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MM Dockets No. 96-222/91-221/87-8 ("NPRM"). The comment date established for each of these three rule makings is February 7, 1997; the date for reply comments is March 7, 1997.

All three rule makings relate to Commission rules and policies concerning broadcast ownership. The Further Notice primarily concerns the

Commission's attribution rules -- the rules by which the Commission defines the interests that are "cognizable" under its ownership rules. The Second Further Notice concerns issues related to the ownership of interests in one or more television stations in a given local market. The NPRM relates to the Commission's national broadcast television ownership rules.

Each of the rulemakings, and particularly the Further Notice and Second Further Notice, has implications for the NOI. The Further Notice's attempt to define cognizable ownership interests has a direct impact on the issue of when Commission ownership rules will apply to the ownership of a newspaper and a radio station in the same market. The Second Further Notice attempts to establish local television ownership rules, a comprehensive policy for granting waivers of those rules, and a policy for radio-television cross-ownership. These issues have strong affinities with the ownership and waiver issues raised by the NOI.

In light of the commonality of the issues raised by the NOI and the three subsequently initiated rule makings, the law firm of Haley Bader & Potts P.L.C. respectfully requests that the comment date and reply comment date for the NOI be extended to February 7, 1997 and March 7, 1997, respectively, the comment and reply comment dates for the three rule makings. Haley Bader & Potts proposes to file comments in the NOI on behalf of broadcast and newspaper clients.

Good cause exists for the requested extension. The extension will allow all parties interested in the NOI an opportunity to assimilate the issues raised by the three related rulemakings and to base their comments on broad principles of ownership. The requested extension will thus help eliminate potential inconsistencies between cross-ownership rules as applied to the radio and television services and assist the Commission in articulating uniform ownership and waiver policies. The requested extension will not delay or otherwise adversely affect the outcome of the NOI, inasmuch as the Commission cannot resolve the ownership and waiver issues raised in the NOI without considering the resolution of the broader issues raised in the three rule makings.

Accordingly, Haley Bader & Potts respectfully requests that the Commission extend the comment date for the NOI to February 7, 1997 and the reply comment date for the NOI to March 7, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

HALEY BADER & POTTS P.L.C.

By: 
John Crigler

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned, an employee of Haley, Bader & Potts, hereby certifies that the foregoing document was mailed this date by First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or was hand-delivered*, to the following:

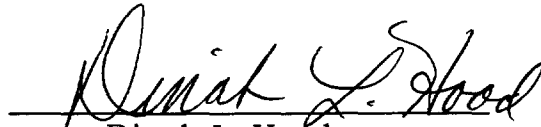
Honorable Reed E. Hundt *
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner James H. Quello *
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
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Dinah L. Hood

November 27, 1996